

VEGETATION

A permanent vegetative cover should be used to stabilize disturbed areas where the soils are structurally stable, the slopes are less than 2H:1V, and there is no groundwater seepage. Complete seeding of areas brought to finish grade within seven days.

INSTALLATION

1. Grade the area and apply two inches of loam, if needed.
2. Broadcast the seed over the entire ditch surface and rake it into the soil.
3. Apply hay mulch according to the MULCHING measure. All newly seeded areas will need mulching.
4. Vegetation on slopes steeper than 2:1 may not develop roots that will sustain the plant nor hold the slope. Alternative slope stabilization measures will need to be implemented.
5. Protect newly vegetated areas from concentrated water flow, and vehicle and pedestrian traffic, until the vegetation is well established.
6. Minimize use of nutrients and pesticides, in order to protect surface and ground water quality. If possible, test the soil for fertilizer needs. Soil sample mailers are available through the local Cooperative Extension Service Office.

Dates for summer seeding: April 15 to September 1 - Permanent seeding should not be done within 45 days prior to the first killing frost.

Dates for seeding a temporary annual grass for winter stabilization: October 1 to November 1

Date for dormant seeding: November 15 or after the first killing frost and before snowfall. Before that, the seeds are likely to germinate but will not survive the winter.

Seed mixtures must be appropriately selected for the soil type, moisture content, the amount of sun exposure, and the level of use as found at the site. Examples are as follows:

Lots of sun and mostly dry:	Creeping red or tall fescue, perennial rye grass and clover
Shady areas:	Creeping red fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, Canada bluegrass
Wetlands:	Creeping red fescue, Reed canary grass, Timothy
Steep slopes:	Crownvetch, clover

The mixture should include some annual rye for quicker green-up. Apply at the approximate rate of 0.5 - 1 lbs per 1,000 SF (30-50 lbs per acre). Contact your Soil and Water Conservation District for specific mixtures.

Temporary seed all areas that will remain disturbed for longer than 30 days. Use oats for spring seeding, an annual ryegrass for quick summer growth, and a winter rye for fall/winter growth. Apply at the rate of 1 to 2 lbs per 1,000 SF.

Dormant Seeding must be applied at double the recommended rate and must be anchored extremely well on all slopes. Do not use dormant seeding in watersheds sensitive to water quality impacts.

Sodding is an important emergency measure, which may be used between September 15 and November 15 when new seeding cannot be guaranteed. Follow supplier's instructions for installation.

MAINTENANCE

- ◆ Permanent stabilization means 90 % coverage with healthy grass growth without soil erosion.
- ◆ All new seeding requires a close inspection in the spring. All areas where cover is inadequate must be immediately reseeded and mulched.
- ◆ Rework, seed and mulch areas that have spotty plant germination are sparsely vegetated, or where soil erosion is evident.
- ◆ Fertilize grasses cast every two years. Use phosphorus-free fertilizer in lake watersheds.

See *Maine Erosion and Sediment Control BMPs* (3/2003) Sections A-2 and C-3 for more information.